

ADVERTISEMENT

About the

EXPERIMENTS

AND

NOTES

Relating to CHYMICAL

Qualities.

When, after I had gone through the common Operations of Chymistry, I began to make some serious Reflections on them, I thought 'twas pity, that Instruments so might prove so serviceable to the advancement of Natural Philosophy, should not be more studiously and skillfully made use of to so good a
a pur-

a purpose. I saw indeed, that divers of the Chymists had by a diligent and laudable employment of their pains and industry, obtain'd divers Productions, and lighted on several Phænomena considerable in their kind, and indeed more numerous, than, the narrowness and sterility of their Principles consider'd, could well be expected. But I observed too, that the generality of those that busie themselves about Chymical Operations; some because they practise Physick; and others because they either much wanted, or greedily coveted money, aimed in their Trials but at the Preparation of good Medicines for the humane body, or to discover the ways of curing the Diseases or Imperfections of Metals, without referring their Trials to the advancement of Natural Philosophy in general; of which most of the Alchymists seem to have been so incurious, that not only they did not institute Experiments
for

for that purpose, but overlookt and despis'd those undesign'd ones that occur'd to them whilst they were prosecuting a preparation of a Medicine, or a Transmutation of Metals. The sense I had of this too general omission of the Chymists, tempted me sometimes to try, whether I could do any thing towards the removing of it by handling Chymistry, as as a Physician, or an Alchymist, as as a meer Naturalist, and so by applying Chymical Operations to Philosophical purposes. And in pursuance of these thoughts, I remember I drew up a Scheme of what I ventur'd to call a *Chymia Philosophica*, not out of any affectation of a splendid Title, but to intimate, that the Chymical Operations, there treated of, were not directed to the usual scopes of Physicians, or Transmuters of Metals, but partly to illustrate or confirm some Philosophical Theories by such Operations; and partly to explicate those Operations

tions by the help of such Theories.

But before I had made any great progress in the pursuit of this design, the fatal Pestilence that raged in *London*, and in many other parts of *England*, in the years 1664 and 65, obliging me among the rest to make several removes; which put me upon taking new measures, and engaging me in other employments of my time, made me so long neglect the Papers I had drawn up, that at last I knew not where to finde them, (though I hope they are not yet mislaid beyond recovery,) which I was the less troubled at, because the great difficulties, to be met with in such an undertaking, did not a little discourage me, such a Task requiring as well as deserving a Person better furnished, than I had reason to think my self, with Abilities, Leisure, Chymical Experiments, and Conveniences, to try as many more as should appear needful. But yet

to break the Ice for any that may hereafter think fit to set upon such a Work, or to shorten my own Labour, if I should see cause to resume my self, I was content to throw in among my Notes about other Particular Qualities, some Experiments and Observations about some of those, that I have elsewhere call'd *Chymical Qualities*, because 'tis chiefly by the Operations of Chymists, that men have been induced to take special notice of them. Of these Notes I have assigned to some Qualities more, and to some fewer, as either the nature or importance of the Subject seemed to require, or my Leisure and other Circumstances would permit. And though I have not here handled the Subjects they belonged to, as if I intended such a *Chymia Philosophica* as I lately mentioned, because my design did not make it necessary, but did perhaps make it impertinent for me to do so, yet in some of the larger
Notes

Notes about *Volatility* and *Fixtness*, and especially about *Precipitation*, I have given some little *Specimens* of the Theorical part of a Philosophical Account of those Qualities or Operations, that I hope will not be wholly useless. I know, it may be objected, that I should have employed for Instances some more considerable Experiments, if not *Arcana*; but though possibly I am not altogether unfurnished with such, yet aiming rather to promote Philosophy, than appear a Possessor of elaborate Processes, I declined several Experiments that required either more skill, or more time, or more expence than could be well expected from most Readers, and chose rather to employ such Experiments as may be more easily or cheaply tried, and, which is mainly to be consider'd, being more simple, are more clearly intelligible, and more fit to have Notions and Theories built upon them; especially considering,
that

that the Doctrine of Qualities being
 it self conversant about some of the
 Rudimental parts, if I may so call
 them, of Natural Philosophy, it
 seemed unfit to employ intricate Ex-
 periments, and whose Causes were
 liable to many disputes, to settle a
 Theory of them. In short, my de-
 sign being to hold a Taper not so
 much to Chymists as to the Natu-
 ralists, 'twas fit I should be less soli-
 citous to gratifie the former than to
 inform the later.

FINIS.